

COVID Community Update**March 2020**

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have any questions, please contact:

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As we continue to adjust to the evolving COVID-19 situation, EPA is taking the necessary steps to ensure that decisions about ongoing cleanup activities at Superfund sites are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, state and tribal partners, and contractors as the priority.

EPA learned that two field contractors involved with the cleanup operation have shown symptoms of COVID-19. The individuals and everyone working with those individuals are in self-quarantine. EPA has temporarily suspended field operations at the VoToys site. This suspension applies to all EPA field staff and contractors and is effective until further notice. General Electric has committed to continuing the fire watch at the site.

The suspension of work is a temporary measure as we adjust to the ongoing situation with COVID-19. We will be periodically reassessing

this decision moving forward and are prepared to come back to the site to continue work as soon as possible. The decision to suspend work was made in consultation with our partners and the town of Harrison. EPA will continue to work closely with state and local health officials, and all partners and stakeholders, to make determinations about site work based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

It is important to know that during the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA maintains its ability to respond to human health or environmental emergencies at Superfund sites, or in any situation where we are called upon to address immediate risks from releases of chemical, oil, radiological, biological, and other hazardous materials.

For more information on VoToys, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/vo-toys>

For more information on EPA's response to COVID, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force